

social hygiene news



AMERICAN SOCIAL HYGIENE ASSOCIATION

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The Hon. Walter Williams (left), Under-Secretary of Commerce, and John A. DeChant, director of the Washington Office of the Crusade for Freedom, trace the route which Mr. Williams took on his trip around the world last fall, on the globe presented to the Under-Secretary in appreciation of his "outstanding leadership" as Federal Chairman of the 1956 Federal Service Overseas Fund campaign. Mr. Williams is also serving as Chairman for the 1957 campaign, which includes ASHA as one of the agencies for which funds are being raised.

EDITORIAL

In the occasional editorials which have appeared in this paper, we have usually confined our remarks to the program aims and activities of the Association. We should like to depart from this practice in this editorial in order to comment on a subject which has broader implications, but which is certainly not unrelated to ASHA's program.

The greatest and most menacing challenge facing all of humanity today is the prospect of nuclear destruction. It makes little difference, in the long run, whether this destruction may come about gradually through increasing radio-activity in the atmosphere or whether we are subjected to a nuclear war.

Dr. Harrison Brown, professor of geochemistry at the California Institute of Technology, wrote in the April 3 issue of *The Reporter*:

"A billion or so years were required for our earth and sun to be formed from primordial matter. Another billion or so years elapsed before the first primitive life forms emerged in the early oceans. Additional billions of years passed before life evolved to the point where it could survive on land. Hundreds of millions of years were required before life on land evolved to the point where a creature could emerge which was endowed with the power of conceptual thought, which could use tools and which could control its environment. It took this creature, man, hundreds of thousands of years to reach the point where he could create a civilization. Additional thousands of years passed before he attained the power not only of controlling his destiny but of understanding the universe in which he lives. **Today, in but an**

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General's Letter Praises ASHA Work

General Nathan F. Twining, chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, U. S. Department of Defense, recently commended the Association in a letter to Philip R. Mather, ASHA president.

In his letter to Mr. Mather, General Twining had this to say: "During the past forty-three years the American Social Hygiene Association has been responsible for maintaining close liaison with civic leaders throughout the country in order to foster strong family life, sustained by healthy community environments. The outstand-

ing results achieved by the Association are certainly indicative of the efficiency of your program.

"We of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps," the letter concluded, "are most appreciative of the assistance given us by the American Social Hygiene Association and we trust that our common desire to work for better family living in better communities will continue to prosper through close liaison between your representatives and our commanders at all levels."

Editorial Cites ASHA Investigation

"For the second time in only a matter of weeks, Anderson has loomed out among the communities of the Midwest as a locality noted for the indifference of its law enforcement agencies and for the accompanying flourishing of prostitution and its attendant evils."

So stated an editorial in the *Anderson, Indiana, Herald* on January 31. Citing an earlier allegation concerning vice conditions made before a Federal Court session in Indianapolis, the editorial went on to say that "the second citation was made public this week when a representative of the American Social Hygiene Association presented a series of findings to the Anderson Ministerial Association."

"The ASHA report," said the editorial, "pointed to four houses of prostitution in operation in Anderson. The report also suggested that wherever there is commercialized prostitution over a long period of time there is reason to suspect that someone within the law enforcement mechanism is receiving money for protection."

Annual Meeting

To all members of the American Social Hygiene Association, Inc.

Pursuant to section 43 of the Membership Corporations Law, State of New York, notice is hereby given to members of the American Social Hygiene Association, Inc., a corporation organized under said law, that the forty-fourth annual meeting of members has been called by the president and the executive committee under By-laws, Article I, Section I, to be held in Suite 137, Blitmore Hotel, 43rd Street and Madison Avenue, on the 26th day of May, 1958, at 4 o'clock p.m., Eastern Daylight Time.

The purpose of said meeting is for the election of officers and members of the Board of Directors.

CONRAD VAN HYNING
Executive Director,
American Social Hygiene
Association, Inc.

L. A. Studies VD

A Los Angeles study of 1,000 case histories of males with gonorrhea reveals that 54 per cent acquired their initial infection between the ages of 15 and 19.

The study was conducted between November 15, 1956, and May 31, 1957, by the Los Angeles City Health Department in conjunction with the U. S. Public Health Service. The individuals interviewed were between the ages of 15 and 60 and represented the lower socio-economic group in one particular section of the city.

According to information released by Len H. Glass, executive director of the Los Angeles Health Education and VD Council, a rather casual and loosely organized family structure was typical of the group interviewed. Interviews revealed that most of the individuals grew up "in an environment where they were dependent upon the mother as the only parent they could be reasonably sure was available."

"In most instances," stated the report, "the living facilities are inadequate, offering little or no privacy for the individual. Children from this type of family background receive an early introduction to the physiological differences between male and female, and have indulged in sexual experimentation. By the time the young male is thirteen he has had his first sexual intercourse and is completely uninhibited. By the time he is sixteen and acquires his initial infection, his sex pattern is firmly established."

A pattern of unemployment or odd jobs is typically found among those individuals studied. Eighty per cent of the 1,000 cases also had a history of previous venereal disease. Of the 20 per cent, or 197 males, interviewed with initial infections, 26 per cent, or 51 persons, returned with new infections during the six-month period of the study.

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Project Committee Lists Members

The consultant committee of the ASHA-sponsored Middle States Family Life Project met in Kansas City, Mo., March 22, 23.

Purpose of the meeting—the first for the newly formed consultant committee—was to become familiar with various aspects of the new teacher preparation project and to make specific plans for future activities.

Members of the committee are: Dr. Lawrence S. Bee, professor of home economics, sociology and anthropology, University of Kansas; Mrs. Josephine Brown, executive director, Missouri Social Hygiene Association; Dr. Karl Busch, chairman, Department of Biology, Municipal University of Omaha; Dr. William E. Hall, professor of educational psychology, University of Nebraska; Dr. Clifford S. Bebell, curriculum coordinator, Colorado Department of Education; Dr. Edward D. Greenwood, coordinator of training in child psychiatry, Menninger Foundation; Dr. Kenneth H. Hansen, chairman, School of Education, Western State College; Paul K. Houdek, executive secretary, Kansas City Social Hygiene Society; Dr. Warren C. Lovinger, president, Central Missouri State College; Dr. Esther E. Prevey, director, Family Life Education, Kansas City Public Schools; Joseph F. Meisels, chairman, Graduate Department of Social Work, University of Kansas; and Dr. Marlin M. Volz, chairman, Department of Law, University of Kansas City.

ASHA staff members attending the Kansas City meeting included: Dr. Ellis F. White, Charles Messner, Mrs. Elizabeth S. Force, William J. Petrus and Howard M. Slutes.

Comments On VD Control

There is less cooperation from physicians in gonorrhea than in syphilis control, according to C. A. Smith, M.D., deputy chief, Communicable Disease Center, U. S. Public Health Service.

Dr. Smith says that gonorrhea is a disease which is very amenable to treatment, and when a patient comes in for treatment, gonorrhea does not have the significance that a physician relates to syphilis.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

The Los Angeles Education and Venereal Disease Council held its annual meeting on April 23 around the theme, "The Prevention of Deviant and Delinquent Behavior." Featured speakers at the meeting were Rocco Motto, M.D., director of the Reiss-Davis Clinic for Child Guidance, and John Beeston, M.D., associate professor of preventive medicine and public health at UCLA. . . . The Social Hygiene and Mental Health Association of Birmingham, Alabama, is conducting a weekly series of television programs portraying various aspects of the Association's program. . . . M. Norman Orgel, M.D., president of the Missouri Social Hygiene Association and a member of ASHA's Board of Directors, was the featured speaker at a luncheon meeting, on April 7, of the Joint Social Hygiene Committee of Cleveland. The meeting was part of the Committee's observance of Social Hygiene Day. . . . The Kansas City Social Hygiene Society recently elected Francis C. Quilly president for 1958. Other officers include the Rev. Charles B. Marrs, first vice-president; Mrs. J. J.

Butler, second vice-president; Dr. Alice Marsh, secretary; and Lewis W. Clymer, treasurer. . . . Dr. Lester A. Kirkendall, professor of family life education at Oregon State College, addressed the Scioto (Ohio) County Social Hygiene Association at a luncheon meeting on March 26. Title of Dr. Kirkendall's talk was "Ethics and Interpersonal Relationships." . . . The General Assembly of the World Health Organization will hold its tenth anniversary meetings in Minneapolis from May 25 through June 14. Official delegates will include senior officers of the International Union for Health Education and leaders in health education from several foreign countries. . . . Mrs. Elizabeth S. Force, ASHA family life education consultant, was a workshop leader at the Twelfth Annual Institute for Workers in Parent Education, sponsored by the Child Study Association of America at Columbia University on March 25, 26. . . . Howard M. Slutes, ASHA's southwest regional director, recently attended the meetings of the National Association of Venereology in Mexico City, Mexico.

Better Conditions Noted By San Antonio Group

The enforcement of laws against prostitution has produced a "remarkably low level of prostitution activities" in San Antonio, Texas, according to the Rev. Robert S. Tate, Jr., chairman of the San Antonio Social Hygiene Committee.

Mr. Tate said that a recent ASHA survey in San Antonio revealed that commercialized prostitution activities are extremely limited, and are in sharp contrast to conditions known to have existed some years ago.

"This report," said Mr. Tate, "furnishes unmistakable evidence of the high quality of law enforcement against commercialized prostitution by the San Antonio Police Department. The city and the Police Department are to be commended for the consistent and vigorous pressure constantly exerted on the prostitution interests in the city. The small volume of prostitution disclosed is considered negligible for a city the size of San Antonio."

Association Sponsors Illegitimacy Conference

A Tri-City Conference on Illegitimacy, sponsored by the American Social Hygiene Association, was held in Washington, D. C., on January 30. Chairman of the conference was H. Lamar Boland, ASHA's director of field services.

Representatives from Washington, Richmond, Va., and Baltimore, Md., attended the conference, which was called for the purpose of dealing with various problems arising out of increasing illegitimacy rates in the three cities.

The first meeting of the group was devoted to a detailed discussion of illegitimacy statistics and problems, as well as possible solutions in the areas of research and community organization.

Mr. Boland stated that members of the committee considered family life education to be an important, long-range objective in dealing with illegitimacy.

Survey Cites Improved Law Enforcement

Law enforcement in Bossier City, La., long a trouble spot with respect to prostitution, has resulted in marked improvement, according to an ASHA survey made there in March of this year. Improved law enforcement by local governmental officials has come about since October, 1956, at which time the ASHA survey showed unsatisfactory conditions.

Howard M. Slutes, ASHA's southwest regional director, worked with the city administration to bring about improved law enforcement.

Bossier City, though a small community, is significant because of its proximity to both Barksdale Air Force Base and Shreveport.

Editorial

(Continued from page 1)

instant in time, he is called upon either to exert that power or forever lose it."

Dr. Brown is among the many scientists who advocate at least a suspension of nuclear testing. He writes: ". . . it seems to me that we have got to start some place, and we have got to start soon. We are rapidly approaching the time when it will be too late."

It is not our purpose to advocate either the cessation or continuation of nuclear testing. We respectfully raise the question, however, whether it is not the role of education to stimulate thought about the most serious issue of our time.

Education has been forced to assume the position of a scapegoat since the launching of the first Russian Sputnik. Although education has many faults and weaknesses, there is room for doubt that its chief weakness has been its supposed inability to keep abreast of developments in science.

We are led to wonder aloud whether our educational system has not underemphasized the humanities and the social sciences; those fields, in other words, which might give man the ability better to control the scientific instruments which he has so ingeniously created, and which now threaten all life on this planet.

"Man's inhumanity to man" still remains at the heart of the problem. The answer does not lie in a nation's ability to develop more and more horrible weapons of destruction.

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Rochester Program

Evan W. Thomas, M.D., venereal disease consultant of the New York State Department of Health, was the keynote speaker at the observance of Social Hygiene Day, April 17, by the Social Hygiene Committee of the Health Association of Rochester and Monroe County, N. Y.

Presiding at the meeting was Edwin I. Cooper, chairman of the Social Hygiene Committee.

Participants in the panel discussion which followed Dr. Thomas' address included Wendell R. Ames, M.D., commissioner of health for the city of Rochester, and T. Lefoy Richman, ASHA's associate executive director.

Armed Forces Day

Armed Forces Day for 1958 has been set for Saturday, May 17, according to an announcement by the Department of Defense. The program for Armed Forces Day will open on May 10 and continue through May 18.

Slogan for this year's observance will be "Power for Peace," and the principal emphasis will be placed on the relationship between the national strength of the United States and the nation's peaceful aspirations.

Book Review Corner

Physique and Delinquency, by Sheldon and Eleanor Glueck (Harper & Bros., 339 pp., \$6.00), reports the authors' study of 500 delinquents and 500 non-delinquents. The study involved the classification of the subjects into four major types of physique; each type is seen as reacting characteristically to a number of behavior traits and socio-cultural factors.

Your Adolescent at Home and in School, by Mary and Lawrence K. Frank (Viking Press, 336 pp., \$3.95), covers the best information concerning adolescence, as well as clarifications by the authors. The volume is addressed primarily to parents and teachers, to whom it is of practical value.

Mental Health in Childhood, by Charles L. C. Burns (Fides Publishers Association, 86 pp., \$2.75), discusses in plain language the contributions of modern psychology and psychiatry toward a clearer understanding of child development and behavior. The book is written from the viewpoint of a Roman Catholic psychiatrist.

America as a Civilization, by Max Lerner (Simon and Schuster, 1,000 pp., \$10.00), is a comprehensive treat-

ment of all of the various facets of our present-day civilization and the factors leading up to current developments. Although the author deals with a great many seemingly unsolvable problems, the general tone of the book is optimistic.

Neurotic Interaction in Marriage, edited by Victor W. Eisenstein, M.D. (Basic Books, Inc., 352 pp., \$5.50), is a collection of chapters written by psychiatrists, psychologists, sociologists, social workers, and other professionals. The general theme of this book is marriage considered from the unconscious level.

Learning to Live as a Widow, by Dr. Marion Langer (Gilbert Press, Inc., 255 pp., \$3.95), is a discussion of the emotional effect of a husband's death and the resulting impact on the widow. This volume gives many helpful words of advice to those who wish to gain a deeper understanding of this problem.

Patterns of Child Rearing, by Robert R. Sears, Eleanor E. Maccoby and Harry Levin (Row, Peterson and Co., 1957, 549 pp., \$5.25), is a report about how 379 American mothers brought up their children from birth to kindergarten age.